Christian Aid

Week 13-19 May 2001

Christian Aid believes in life before death

During Christian Aid Week every year about 350,000 volunteers in the UK and Ireland collect money to help the world's poorest communities. Last year house-to-house collections and fundraising events raised an amazing £12 million.

In Ickenham we raised £5,764 from the envelopes, and as half of this was declared for the recovery of income tax it raised a further £738 making a total of £6,502. This year we would ask that even more income tax payers (making a contribution in the envelope) complete the boxes on the reverse side thereby boosting the value of the gift significantly. A few days after your red envelope arrives one of our 107 collectors will retrieve it from you and Ickenham's 4,000 other homes. Thank you for your generosity. With your help we can improve on last year's total. We were short of collectors last year. If you think you can help, telephone Walter Davis on 01895 635259

As the official agency of 40 denominations in the UK and Ireland, Christian Aid enables people to do together what they could never do by themselves. It takes the 'mustard seed' which each individual can offer and allows it to grow dramatically. It supports work in over 60 countries world-wide enabling poor people, regardless of their religion, to help themselves. Working through local organisations -'partners' in those countries, Christian Aid is able to:

listen to those people to understand what causes their poverty.

fund local projects that bring about long-term benefits for poor people.

campaign so that their case is put to those who have the power to change things.

give aid promptly when emergencies arise.

You're making a difference

There's much to celebrate. The work of Christian Aid's supporters has made a genuine difference to the lives of real people throughout the world. Thank you to those who have contributed over the years. You are an inspiration to others to join us in giving, acting and praying for change, for as long as poverty exists.
For more information about Christian Aid Week log on to: www.christian-aid.org.uk
See Forthcoming Events for details of ***Christian Aid's - 'Sponsored' Walk the Heart of London***

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL -TRADE FOR LIFE

Launch of Christian Aid *new campaign.*

Photo' Courtesy of Christian Aid/
Vicki Couchman

On 24th. February four delegates from the Ickenham Churches' Christian Aid Committee joined others from all over the United Kingdom in a packed Southwark Cathedral for the introduction of the new campaign. It was a very spiritual day, which began with a rousing welcome from Daleep Mukarji, Director of Christian Aid.

Justin Macmullan, Campaigns Officer, told us of the successes in the debt campaign. He also thanked all those who had bought, or promoted, Fairly Traded produce helping, significantly, the very needy from the poorest communities. These two campaigns are to continue.

Martin Drewry, Head of Campaigns, reminded us of the 1.3 billion people who live on less than 65 p a day - absolute poverty: Also that this poverty is much more destructive of human life than famine, earthquake or flood. The purpose of the new four-year campaign is to change the rules of trade so that a much fairer system will lift millions out of abject poverty.

The day concluded with a very moving service conducted by the Bishop of Southwark the Right Reverend Tom Butler.

Bernard Pearce
To learn more of the campaign, contact Christian Aid on 020 7523 2225 or visit www.christian-aid.org.uk
See the regular feature on 'Trade for Life, and a fuller report of the Southwark Conference at www.ickenhamchurchnews.co.uk

DROP-IN FOR THE BEREAVED Third Monday of each month. St. Giles' Church Hall, 2-3.30 p.m. A friendly, informal opportunity for a chat, over a cup of tea, with other bereaved people and pastoral visitors. The next meeting is Monday 21st. May. Just come along, or ring the Rectory (622970) if you would like to talk to someone first.

ICKENHAM GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME exists to serve the whole of Ickenham. We're here to assist in an emergency. If you need help, the daytime contact numbers are: 01895 673095 or 01895 235061.

BITS OF HISTORY (2)

by MORRIS W. HUGHES

In the early part of this century, and in the years before, most of the entertainment in the village was made by the villagers themselves. On some occasions, however, lantern lectures were given in the Church of England schoolroom.

Two much-travelled young men whose home was in Wood Lane, Ruislip, gave three of these lectures, each one dealing with a different part of the Far East. These displays were advertised as lectures, but they developed into the most delightful and friendly of talks. The lantern slides were of the pictures taken by the two young men on their travels. While one of them worked the lantern, the other gave the interesting account of their adventures while the relevant pictures were being shown.

In 1920 the rector, the Rev. H. B. Langton, gave such a lecture. His pictures illustrated the progress of Egypt in ancient times, Luxor, the Sphinx, the Pyramids and many other tombs were shown. This too was to some extent, a first-hand lecture, for the rector had spent some time in Egypt when it was a British Protectorate. He dealt with the Suez Canal, its history and uses, and the country surrounding it.

The only other public building in the village was the Men's Institute. Social evenings and whist drives were held on alternate weeks. These were always well attended. The refreshments were made by women of the village. Mrs. King who lived in the school house made some very tasty sausage rolls. One or two of the schoolboys worked a confidence trick on the old lady. On sausage roll days they would be rude to her, so that she got really annoyed. Later on when the cooking had been done they would go in strength, to apologise . . . and be rewarded (for their " chivalry " with a sausage roll apiece. On the day known as Hospital Sunday Mrs. King sat at her gate from morning till night, collecting cash from everyone who passed, for no one had the heart to refuse her.

When the Institute room was not used for whist drives, the members played billiards, darts, dominoes and card games. One game which was played down through the years,

for the want of a better name might well be called " Ickenham Bridge ", for the rules were not known to anyone outside that room. The great exponents were Sam Saich, Harry Wilden and Reg Weeden. The fourth being anyone who'd partner Sam. Sam was usually the first one there, but if he was late, any of the younger members would sit in his chair. Then when Sam came in he'd just wander around the room aimlessly until the offender got out of it. The game could not start without him, and he'd sit in no other chair even if they were all empty. So that the game could begin, the tormentor would be told in no uncertain terms by the other two would-be players, that it might be good for his health if he went and played billiards.

Pat Bradlev was quite often the fourth at the table. When he had a fair to middling hand, he took a fiendish delight in calling " No Bumper ", which being translated from the Ancient Ickenham to English means, " No Trumps ". There was only one call for each hand, and that was all there was to it. Sometimes to break the monotony, one of the others would partner Sam, and Pat would always call No Bumper, to watch the fun when Sam's partner was dummy. The three regulars were the only ones who disliked the whist drives, for it cheated them of a night of " bridge ". On Social evenings they held their session cooped in one corner of the room.

A three-quarter sized billiard table was in constant use. It had been long the intention of the club to acquire a full-sized table but the room would not accommodate it. So the decision was made to raise funds to build an extension. Two small boys of the village were given a book each, and sent to neighbouring villages to collect donations. The books were for the amount donated and the name of the giver, to be entered. The lads wore out a pair of shoes each in the quest. At a Grand Fete held in Cowne's orchard in 1913, they were rewarded with a coconut to be shared between them. It's not a riddle, but who do you think was milked, the kids or the coconut ?

Cowne's orchard is now the site of the Library, and the other buildings, and extended to Willow Close, and from Glebe Lane to the Coach & Horses land. The Fete was a great success and was organised by Perey Catchpole, the secretary of the Institute. When the 14-18 war came, such schemes were set aside and almost forgotten.
To be continued.

ST GILES' RECTORY

As I stare at my computer screen for inspiration, it is the afternoon of Easter Day. This morning at St Giles' we had a packed church for our main Eucharist to celebrate the meaning for us of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was uplifting to see so many people there ranging in age from a few days old to some in the nineties. One new family to the area whose first Sunday it was with us asked if it was always full like this. Well, not quite but there is no doubt that Christianity in Ickenham is by no means in decline. The biggest area of growth for us is with families and it's always a great pleasure to welcome them and to spend some time, albeit often short, with them in the Hall over refreshments after the service. We can still welcome more people, so if you've been hesitating about putting your toes in the water, especially if you have young children, don't delay any longer. Come and join us!

I suspect that over the next couple of weeks speculation will build up once more about the

possibility of a General Election on 7 June. Given the ongoing tragedy of the foot and mouth disease still afflicting new areas of the country, it would have been insensitive not to delay the local elections planned for 3 May. It might still be insensitive for 7 June; happily you and I don't have to make such decisions (although most of us are always ready to offer advice, even if it goes unheard!). Recent opinion polls which have been conducted indicate that an increasing number of people are likely not to vote whenever the General Election is called. Apathy is one of the dangers of our modern society and we must be on our guard that we do not become another victim. Democracy has been hard won and we should always have that at the back of our minds when presented with the opportunity to exercise our choice.

Greetings and peace to you all.
Philip

FROM ST. GILES' REGISTERS

Baptisms

April 8th. Harrison Lee James Bowen

Weddings

April 14th Andrew James Child and Jacqueline Sadie Moont
21st Andrew Jonathan Roker and Belinda Margaret Osguthorpe

Cremations at Breakspear Crematorium

March 19th. Peggy Miles, aged 93 (after service in St Giles' Church)
April 2nd. Gabrielle (Gaye) Brigden, aged 88 (after service in St Giles' Church)
2nd. Leslie Foxhill aged 95
3rd. Ronald Thomas aged 69
3rd. Kenneth Sparke, aged 81
5th. Rodney Patrick Charles Locke, aged 69
5th. Brian Aldridge, aged 73

Burial at Northwood Cemetery

March 28th. Mary Anne Cann, aged 54 (after service in St Giles' Church)

FROM THE U.R.C. MINISTER

I suppose that many people think of church services as fairly formal occasions, and of the Christian faith as a moral code for their lives.

Yet in true worship the most meaningful thing is an experience of the presence of the risen Lord Jesus he said "where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." *(Matthew 18.20)* As I met with fellow Christians at the U,R.C. and St Giles on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday to remember his Last Supper, Death and Resurrection this was my experience, and I think others shared it. Won't you come and join us to meet the risen Lord Jesus?

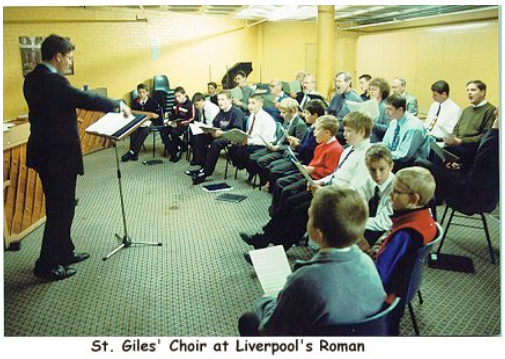
I did indeed argue on Easter Sunday for the historical truth of the physical resurrection of Jesus. But the part of the service that I found most wonderful was the moving and powerful testimony of Anne, who shares in ministry with me at the U.R.C., about her experience of the risen Lord Jesus, and her dependence on him every day of her life. She spoke from her heart, because that is where her real knowledge of Jesus is. Being a Christian is not a moral code: it is a personal relationship with Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

As this issue is distributed I shall be married to Sarah. We shall seek to depend on the Lord Jesus for all we do together in Ickenham.

RICHARD LANDON

ST. GILES' CHOIR NOTES.

Five new boys have just joined the choir as junior members. We welcome Ben Hill. Nick Rayner, Sam Scott, Gerald Tarr and Oliver Dibartolo and hope that they will enjoy their time with us, and quickly move to becoming established members of the choir.



St. Giles' Choir at Liverpool's Roman Catholic Cathedral.

Last October we had a marvellous weekend singing the services in Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. We travelled up by train. It was just after the terrible Hatfield crash and took over five hours from Watford Junction due to the speed restrictions in place. Luckily we had a First Class party ticket so were able to sit back and savour the hospitality on board for a much longer time than expected. We enjoyed leading the services in the large and resonant building with a very fine organ, and the photograph shows the choir in rehearsal being conducted by James Mooney-Dutton. The journey home on the Sunday evening took as long as the outward one, and it was the evening of the torrential rainfall such that our cars from Watford Junction had to wade through several lakes on the way back to Ickenham.

Some members of St. Giles' Choir 'Flying' The London Eye.

The British Airways London Eye, sometimes known as the wheel, was one of the successes of the Millenium year, and we recently enjoyed a visit to this new landmark with its excellent views of the city and surrounding countryside. Three of the senior boys are shown enjoying the view. This past winter has been particularly hard with the rain, snow and cold, so in February we arranged a dinner for adult members and partners at the Uxbridge Golf Club. The carvery there is excellent and the good food was appreciated by all ages. Wine was provided by courtesy of RAF Uxbridge for whom we had sung carols just before Christmas.

We look forward now to a visit to Bristol Cathedral in the summer and a possible return trip to Holland next year.

John Miley

THE WORD OF GOD…ACCORDING TO KIDS

- Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
- Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
- The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards Moses went up on Mount Cynanide to get the amendments.
- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

UNSUNG HEROES - FLOWER ARRANGERS

Gill Roker

Gill Roker (a Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal winner) started flower arranging in St. Giles' Church in the early 1980's when Mrs. Soanes became ill. When Mrs. Soanes died, former Rector Vic' Wynburne assumed that Jill would take over! Luckily she did and in 2001 Jill is still hard at work. When more and more weddings seemed to be held at the church Jill co-opted Jean Wilson to assist. Since this time the team has grown to include 14 in number.

St. Giles' Flower team

There have been some amusing moments over the years especially when the team's attractive candelabra decoration went up in flames one Christmas because the candles burned too low. At least the fire extinguisher worked. We remember Gwen Wilden causing a few 'floods' on the floor and 'dampening' the sound equipment because of over-enthusiastic watering: then there were the 'black looks' one Sunday morning at 8.00 a.m. when it was discovered that the porch heater had been left on over the weekend. The 'coffin cover' display looked anything but fresh!

St. Giles' Flower arrangement

Not only is the team in demand for decorating the church each week, but no-one will forget the fabulous arrangements titled 'The Miracles' during Ickenham Festival week in June 2000, or the effort they put into raising £450 at the flower stall in the Christmas Market. For fun, they attend flower arranging workshops to hone their skills. All praise to their work and skill on our behalf.

In the U.R.C. another dedicated group of at least twelve people (disciples or ladies rugby team?) volunteer to beautify the church each week, on an ad hoc basis. They are prevailed upon for special occasions, such as weddings and Harvest Festival. Some of them, and several men-folk too, tend the garden to keep it looking beautiful, whilst the choir is called upon to create the flower arrangements at Easter. When you see their fund

Pat Hughes and Masterpiece at the U.R.C.

raising plant stall at various times of the year, think about the volunteers who give up their time so willingly for your pleasure.

We all notice when our churches are devoid of flowers during Lent, but how many of us stop to think about the work of these unsung heroes, or to say thank you to them for their skill. God be praised for their artistry and commitment.

PEGGY MILES 1908 - 2001

Peggy Miles

At her funeral on Monday 19th. March Peggy's last instruction, written for all to see, was that we must not be sad for her at her passing. We will remember her for the vivacious, and faithful, servant she always was. Peggy's approach to life was to enjoy it as best she could for as long as she could.

"I hope my funeral will be a happy occasion remembering me with the laughter I have had with so many friends."

We must picture her at any Easter Day service wearing her most stylish outfit, and smartest hat, and celebrate her 93 years of service and love. May Peggy now rest in God's eternal peace and rise in glory Amen.

ANTHONY (TONY) HENRY PARSONS 1940-2001

Tony and Vernie Parsons, formerly of Glebe Avenue, moved to Holbeach, Lincolnshire in April 2000. Tony retired from Uxbridge (Sorting) Post Office last 5th. September after working there for nearly 45 years. He had been unwell for a few months owing to a brain tumour and died in Holbeach hospital this 1st. April. with his family at his bedside. Tony will be missed sadly by all his family and his many friends.

READING THE BIBLE

Sequels are big these days. If something goes well there's probably a sequel already being made. But sequels aren't new. Luke wrote one in the New Testament to follow up his Gospel - Acts, that tells the story of the spread of Christianity.
One of the troubles with reading Acts is we've read it before and we know the story in a way, more or less. We have the idea that the apostles started preaching about Jesus and people instantly started believing what they said.
This month read Acts and try and pretend you've never heard the story before. When you do, you'll begin to see how I can say that it tells an impossible story, a story that didn't have a chance according to the way we usually measure things. There's this small group of absolutely ordinary people. They are not especially well educated. They have almost no money, very little social power or influence, and they don't seem to be particularly charming or attractive.
Here's their job: to tell people that another ordinary-looking person, a carpenter from a little nowhere town, was actually the Son of God. Even though he died by execution as a common criminal. Then they say he came back to life. As if this wasn't enough, they go on to say that because of all this, you have to make major changes to the way you live, changes that will cost you.
A tiny group of ordinary, untrained people are going to spread this totally off-the-wall idea throughout the whole world - and this is going to work? Get real! In Acts, Luke tells the story of how it actually happened during those first few years.

This month:
Read the book of Acts. For humour, look in Chapter 12 for Peter's escape from prison and meet a patient angel and a scatterbrained maid - Rhoda. Listen in to Paul's farewell scene to his friends in Chapter 20:17-38. Nearly as good as a soap? For action & adventure go with Paul on his last trip to Rome in Chapter 27.

Jo White

ST. GILES' CHURCH WATCH

There is a need for couples or individuals (we watch in pairs) to join the rota of those spending two morning hours each month to watch, and to be available to assist visitors to St. Giles'. If you can help, or would like further information, please call Don Gwilt on 01895 673704.

PARISH PUMP

Receipt is acknowledged of the following donations towards the cost of *I.C.N.*: G E Donaldson from Pinner via Alan Grove, Mrs. J V Smith of Field Close, Anonymous from Campden Road via Val Kershaw, Mrs J M Smith of St. Giles Avenue, From 'Bay House', Anonymous from Parkfield Road via Ruth Gear, Mrs Brunt from Eastcote via Terry Durn, Vernie Parsons from Holbeach, Anonymous from Rectory Way via Beryl Gwilt.
Copy for the June edition should be with me by **13th. May.**

IT'S A PARABLE

The Talents: Matthew 25: 14 - 30

The story of the talents is one of a series of parables, in which Jesus talks about the theme of his return. Faithfulness in the Master's service is the main point of this parable. It's not the amount of talents we have that matters, but how we use them.

Our Talents
The master leaves his servants in charge, giving them five, two and one talent respectively, to trade for him in his absence. We should note that a talent was a weight, which later became a large unit of money. Therefore, rather than simply representing gifts, they refer to the responsibilities which God us, according to our abilities.
*What opportunities has God given us in order to serve him?

God's Judgement
The story highlights the servant who was condemned for doing nothing with his talent; he simply hid it in the ground to keep it safe. Perhaps Jesus was thinking of the Pharisees, who carefully preserved God's torah unchanged, while keeping it hidden from ordinary people. Because they did not take their responsibilities seriously, their prize possession

would be given to others. We too risk condemnation if we simply want a faith without risk or change, and fail to share with others.

* In what ways do we go for safety in matters of faith?

Our Reward

Those with the five and two talents made full and responsible use of what had been entrusted to them. They are both commended by their master, 'Well done, good and faithful servant', and find their opportunities doubled. If we are faithful in the smaller things, God will give us greater opportunities to serve him.

* How have we found this to be true for ourselves?

Paul Hardingham

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Oh, my God,
how does it happen in this poor old world
that Thou art so great and yet nobody finds Thee;
that Thou callest so loudly and nobody hears Thee; that Thou art so near and nobody feels Thee;
that Thou givest Thyself to everybody and nobody knows Thy name!
Men flee from Thee and say they cannot find Thee; they turn their backs and say they cannot see Thee; they stop their ears and say they cannot hear Thee!

Hans Denck (1495-1527)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS
for which your support would be appreciated

HILLINGDON D.F.A.S

Meets at Winston Churchill Hall, Ruislip at 2.00 p.m.

On Wednesday 9th. May

This month's speaker is Peter Clayton who speaks on:

"Finders Keepers? Treasure Trove, Past, Present and Future.

Wedn. 13th. June Nicholas Reed on "British Impressionists - As good as the French?

ICKENHAM MINIATURE RAILWAY

is open on the first Saturday of each month April to December.

ENJOY A RIDE OR COME AND WATCH.

Saturday 5th. May 12.00 noon to 5.30 p.m.

Also 2nd. June.

Entrance behind The Pump, Ickenham

ADMISSION FREE. RIDE 25p

VYNERS SWING BAND

Charity Concert

Sunday 13th, May 2.30 p.m. at Vyners School

Ticket Hotline: 01895 234342

Tickets are **FREE:** Collection on behalf of
Iver Nature Reserve

EXHIBITION OF LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHS
Sunday 24th. June to Saturday 7th. July - Cow Byre, Ruislip.
Sheila Rosser is taking over the Cow Byre Gallery for two weeks
for a display of her photographs of scenes from around Hillingdon.
Please come and look. ***Free admission.***
Enquiries 01895 635714

CHRISTIAN AID - 'SPONSORED' WALK THE HEART OF LONDON
Sunday 20th. May 2.00 - 5.00 p.m.
Launch at 2.00 p.m. from Westminster Central Hall
Refreshments from 1 p.m.
For information and sponsorship forms Tel. 020 7496 1684
Walk with friends, family or as a group.
Thanksgiving Service at 5.15 p.m. in Central Hall

ICKENHAM & DISTRICT ARTHRITIS CARE GROUP
Meetings every first and third Wednesday of the month.
Next meetings **Wednesday 2nd. May** and **Wednesday 16th. May**
2 - 4 p.m. Guide H.Q., Community Close, Ickenham
Contact Cyril Hand (Chairman) on 01895 636258 for more details.

UXBRIDGE CHORAL SOCIETY
and The Virtuosi of London
play Vaughan Williams and Dvořák
Conducted by Anthony Goodchild
at ***The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church***
Botwell Lane Hayes **Saturday 12th. May at 8 p.m.**
Tickets £8 and £5 (Concessions) Tel. 01895 237873 or at the door

ICKENHAM (AFTERNOON) WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
Next meeting Thursday 3rd. May. St. Giles' Church (rear) Hall at 1.45 p.m.
'Resolutions' will be discussed. Social time - ***' My Failed Resolutions'***
Thursday June 7th. A talk by Joan Stocker ***'Journey on the Orient Express'.***
Members and non-members welcome.

ICKENHAM FESTIVAL BARN DANCE
Saturday 12th. May, Ickenham Village Hall from 8 p.m.
'PIG'S EAR' featuring Michael Catovsky.
Bring your own bottle. Raffle. Families welcome.
Tickets £5 from 'TOGS' Ladies wear and Hayes Bookshop or W. Creber 625401
Proceeds towards Ickenham Festival 2002

ICKENHAM DISTRICT GUIDES
'Table Top Sale' **- Saturday 19th. May 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**
Guide H.Q., Community Close. Admission 20p. Refreshments available.
To reserve your table (£6) call Marjorie on 01895 636892

ICKENHAM CHURCHES' WOMEN'S GROUP

Thursday 3rd. May at 8 p.m. in the U.R.C. Hardwick Room
Kathy Loddy will talk on ***'Aspects of the Store'***
Thursday 7th. June Jim Buttress talks about ***'London's Royal Parks'***
Everyone is welcome.

ICKENHAM (EVENING) WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Next meeting is Thursday 17th. May in Ickenham Village Hall 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Resolutions to be put forward will be decided upon.
Guests and new members welcome.

ICKENHAM CRICKET CLUB

Come along and join us at our ***'FUN DAY'***
On Monday 28th. May 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Oak Avenue, Ickenham
Bric-a-brac, cakes, plants, bottle tombola, cream teas, '***Bouncy Castle'.***
Lots of fun for everyone. ***FREE.***

UXBRIDGE & ICKENHAM FLORAL ART SOCIETY
CLUB SPRING SHOW

'The Merry Month of May'
Saturday 12th. May 2 to 5 p.m. Ickenham Village Hall
Enquiries to Gill Roker (01895 850943)